

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1.9
F7669D
req

LIBRARY
RECEIVED
★ DEC 21 1940 ★
U. S. Department of Agriculture

Dixie Ranger



Merry Christmas

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

We are almost at the end of another successful year and there's no better way to finish it than with a grand, old-fashioned Christmas. In the Southern Region this should indeed be a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, as it marks the seventh Christmas in the history of the Region.

Seven years is a good long time - time enough pretty well to determine our success or failure as a going concern. I consider that we have come through this "boiling down" period in a thoroughly satisfactory manner; that we've proven we can do a good job. We have built up our organization and developed our mechanical improvements to the point where many of our physical problems have been solved. We've made mistakes, of course, but the experiences of the past should enable us more wisely to plan for the future and better to meet our responsibilities.

Each individual member of the Southern Region family, in the Regional Office, in the field, and in the CCC camps is entitled to feel a legitimate pride in his own particular contribution to our accomplishments over this period. All that we have done has been made possible through the fine spirit of cooperation which has marked all your efforts, and I want to extend to every member my grateful appreciation of your share in this record.

It is my earnest hope that the year has brought some benefit and pleasure to every one connected with the Region. May this Christmas bring to each of you a renewed sense of doing important work.... of being an integral part of an organization engaged in the task of conserving human and natural resource values. May Christmas bring you a respite from the routine of daily tasks - when you can forget war and business and taxes and take time to remember old friends and express to them some kindly Christmas greeting.

And between friends, what happier wish could be expressed than -

Merry Christmas!

Jay Allricher

THE NAVAL STORES CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The program for 1941 continues naval stores conservation as a part of the general Agricultural Conservation Program, and is designed to promote the adoption of approved turpentine practices, including better fire protection and better cutting practices.

Significant changes in the 1941 Bulletin include (1) Provision for participation by small producers (one crop or less) beginning operations for the first time in 1941 and having no base, and (2) change in rate of payment for operating faces on trees 10 inches and over in diameter. Other changes were for clarification and to facilitate administration.

The rates for 1941 will be: $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents for each face in continuous operation during 1941, including new faces, on trees 10 inches or over in diameter. The rate for 1940 was $3\frac{3}{4}$ cent.

Four cents for each face 90 inches or less in height on trees 9 inches or over in diameter taken out of production in compliance with the provisions of the program, which is the same rate as set up in the 1940 program.

Five cents for each face on trees less than 9 inches, d.b.h., required to be taken out of operation under terms of the program.

--- Lillian King
Regional Office

- - -

A CONVERT

Recent conversation with an operator of sawtimber and pulpwood on the South Carolina prompts the tracing of a bit of history.

By letter dated early in 1938 this operator, in answer to a prospectus mailed him, wrote the Forest Supervisor as follows: "With reference to the timber that you have advertised for sale, beg to state that the writer and our Mr. _____ have looked the trees over carefully that have been painted, and we were much disappointed to find that every tree we saw that was painted was defective; in other words, they either had bird holes in the top or cat faces on the sides. A number of trees had been slinned off on two sides with an axe or hatchet, that had not been painted. These trees seem to be all right. Since we did not see a single tree that was not defective, and being as hard as it is now to make money out of the lumber business, cutting good timber, we cannot feel justified in submitting a bid."

Unwittingly this operator verified the fact that our marking was in accordance with the rules covering salvage in a highly defective stand. He went even so far as to back up our judgment on a small area remarked: the axe marks he mentioned were the results of removing paint spots.

He was on the side lines when this timber sold, and it may be said that he occupied a grandstand seat when its purchaser, characteristically crying "wolf, wolf", broadcast the news that government timber was dynamite and should be left alone. Perhaps the particular operator under discussion suspected that where there was so much smoke there could be little fire, or he may have tired of trying to turn an honest dollar cutting "good timber". The fact stands that within three months after writing the above letter he was generating his share of smoke on his first government sale. From his quavering cries and all but tear stained letters, he too was being dynamited into financial destruction. But he continued to buy: a second sale went his way, and a third. By his admittance he was a bear for punishment, and could not learn.

Our story draws to a close. Another sale is in the offing. Our operator won the race to the woods to review the sample marking. Rather than writing a letter, criticising what he saw, he stated confidentially, "For over a year we have agreed that Forest Service cutting practice is the right practice".

After two and one-half years we had made another sale, not of tangible volumes and values, but of a principle.

- - - Norman R. Hawley,
South Carolina

- - - -

CCC BOYS ARE MARCHING - INTO GOOD JOBS

A couple of news items in the November 30 issue of HAPPY DAYS indicates that enrollees of the CCC are stepping into the many rated jobs suddenly opened to them as the national defense program gets into swing.

One item with a Washington, D. C. dateline reports that the 124 graduates from the aviation mechanics course at Camp SCS-11, Vista, California, within a 13-month period have been placed in West Coast aircraft plants.

The other item reports that 11 enrollees of Co. 3440 (SCS-20) at Tennille, Georgia have drawn jobs at Fort Benning, Ga., five of the men going in as foreman and six as assistants.

THE BULLETIN BOARD

REGIONAL SAFETY RECORD IN DANGER

During the first eight months of this year, an enviable record of accident-prevention accomplishment was established by the units of the Region. This accomplishment is reflected in reports summarized from the forms AD-135 by the Chief's office, which show that Region 8 had the lowest accident frequency rate for regular Forest Service and CCC supervisory personnel in the entire Service. The frequency rates in every instance compare favorably with those for CCC enrollees, as summarized from the forms CCC-104.

This accomplishment, and the record you have established now seem to be in jeopardy. In September the number of accidents among employees and supervisory personnel was double that for previous months, and the October reports tell an almost identical story of increasing accidents. For the most part, these are of a type which could have been prevented by a little more foresight on the part of the injured employee, or his immediate supervisor.

Copies of the Forest Service safety rules, as revised by the Washington Office, will be distributed shortly to all forest officers, and should provide detailed aid in the safety program. In the meantime, the existing regulations should provide a guide for effective accident-prevention work, and everyone is requested to contribute his best efforts toward reducing our present frequency of accidents.

----- Joseph C. Kircher,
Regional Forester

FORESTS AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

(From the November issue of the Georgia Builder)

"Georgia's forests are answering the call for National Defense. As the United States shifts into high gear for the important business of "keeping the peace", not only the man power of the nation, but the power of its natural resources must be mobilized for getting the machinery under way.

Those Georgians who for the past two decades have been waging an unceasing war against the many enemies of the forests, have reason to be grateful that, in this national crisis, Georgia not only has men ready and willing to answer their country's call, but also has vast forest resources ready to be converted to housing for these men. In addition to lumber, the state's forests can supply many other products needed in this program of preparation.

Some idea of the amount of lumber needed for the new Army camps is indicated by the following list of Army contracts awarded to nine Southern projects, with the estimated amount of lumber needed in each instance. Nearly all of these are hurry-up jobs, the completion date on Fort Bragg, Camp Shelby and Fort McClellan being October 15. The others are to be completed by December 1, except the Kisatchie National Forest Area 18 Camp which will be completed December 15th. The list is as follows: Camp Savannah, Savannah, Ga. 9,500,000 feet; Fort Bragg, Asheville, N. C., 27,000,000; Camp Shelby, Hattiesburg, Miss. 35,000,000 feet; Camp Blanding, Starke, Florida, 32,000,000 feet; Fort McClelland, Anniston, Ala., 16,000,000 feet; Brownwood, Texas, 16,000 feet; Camp Robinson, Little Rock, Ark., 17,000,000 feet; Kisatchie National Forest Area 6, Alexandria, La., 31,000,000 feet; and Kisatchie National Forest Area 18, Alexandria, La. 31,000,000 feet.

Although it has been with no thought of military preparedness that certain groups of patriotic Georgians have sought through the years to make all Georgians "Know the Value of their Timber" this new demand on these resources should serve to emphasize to all the need for increasing protection against fires and other destructive forces. As Georgia's trees join the preparedness parade, it behooves every loyal citizen to enlist voluntarily as a member of the army of conservationists who have been so gallantly waging war on the enemies of the forests."

-- Emily Woodward, Chairman
Publicity Committee
- - - Georgia Forestry Association

FULMER BECOMES CHAIRMAN OF HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

Representative Hampton Fulmer, of South Carolina has been elected to replace Chairman Marvin Jones of the House Agriculture Committee, who resigned to take a post on the United States Court of Claims.

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ANY BIG TREES IN THIS REGION?

The American Forestry Association has launched a movement to locate and preserve the largest specimens of American trees. A search is to be made of the entire country for the largest oaks, pines, maples, sycamores, elms, hemlocks and other specimens of more than two hundred different kinds of trees. The Association will compile and maintain permanent records of these tree aristocrats of the nation, and is asking citizens everywhere to report any unusually large trees about which they have information.

Some one has said "Dixie's trees are TREES" and - even if California does have bigger trees - the Southern Region has the greatest variety of species. And among these species, many attain their greatest development in this Region.

Supervisors and rangers are requested to supply the Regional Office with information on any local tree giants in their localities. The information desired includes identity as to species, circumference four and a half feet above the ground, height, spread, location and ownership. Photographs also are desired.

In this connection, a recent letter from H. C. Freeman Cook of the Oklahoma Planning & Resources Board, informs us that he reported to the Association the largest pecan tree in Kiowa County. The tree measured 136 feet in height and 17 feet - 2-3/8 inches in circumference breast height, which is in the way of being something of a record.

- - - -

NANTAHALA ENTERTAINS

The personnel of the Nantahala National Forest and their friends enjoyed a dinner dance at Panorama Courts on the evening of November 16.

John Hamer, acting as toast master, called upon Supervisor Melichar who welcomed the guests. Responses were made by Supervisor Fischer of the Chattahoochee National Forest, Assistant Ranger Bill Huber from the Pisgah National Forest and Marion Lamb from the Regional Office in Atlanta, Georgia, and others. The speeches, however, were short and dancing and cards provided most of the entertainment. Omar Khayam would have been pleased to see his philosophy so ably carried out.

The room was beautifully and interestingly decorated to feature the harvest colors. The central motif was an enormous cluster of brilliant balloons suspended from the ceiling. Around the room cornstalks and pumpkins were used with branches of hemlock to cover

the walls between the windows. A large horse shoe table seated the sixty guests. The table, covered with brown and gold cloth, had huge bowls of artistically arranged fruits for decorations.

The committee responsible for the success of the party was Mr. and Mrs. James Averell, Mrs. Charles Melichar, Mrs. Mamie Horsley, John Ansel and Mr. and Mrs. John Hamer. The out of town guests were Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Fischer, Mr. and Mrs. R. B. McKinley, Mr. and Mrs. Clinton G. Johnson of Gainesville, Georgia, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sheets, Miss Louise Patterson of Cornelia, Georgia, Miss Ruth Hale of Asheville, N. C., W. B. Huber of Pisgah Forest, North Carolina, and Marion Lamb of Atlanta, Ga.

--- Clinton G. Johnson,
Mantahala

- - -

NEW BOOKLET ON CCC

The seven year history of the CCC by a man who knows the subject, Director James J. McEntee, has just been published by the National Home Library Foundation.

The book which is entitled: "Now They Are Men", contains a resume of the first days of the CCC, the reason for its organization, details of the Corps administration, life in camp, education, and training of enrollees, and interesting chapters on results of the CCC program, and its future usefulness. Federal Security Administrator Paul V. McNutt wrote the introduction which says in part: "Society has developed a number of permanent institutions which help to build up its resistance against the inroads of war and depression, such as the school, the church, the welfare organizations and others. There is now a new institution, only seven years old, which in this brief period of time has earned the right to be added to this family of permanent American institutions which build up the strength and vigor of society. It is the Civilian Conservation Corps."

The book is not an official publication, but is for sale at 25¢ a copy by the National Home Library Foundation, 1212 St. Matthews Court, N. W., Washington, D. C.

- - -

There is only one man better than the man who gets behind and pushes, and that is the man who stays ahead and pulls.

- - - Highways of Happiness.

THE FAMILY ALBUM

LIMPIN' LAMMIE

Noted the Li'l Abner item in last month's DIXIE RANGER. That's Claude John Lammers, familiarly known as "Lammie" by the official family on the Alabama Forests who have been missing him very much since early October when he fractured his right leg above the ankle. While on duty at Munford Camp on the Talladega, he stepped wrong on the wrong edge of a flagstone laid wrong. The stone up-ended and down he went. So he's been grounded at his home in Decatur, Georgia from whence he has managed to crutch it into the regional office a few times lately to see some of us. He filled part of the time drawing complete plans for his future dream home, detailing even the door knobs and key holes. Now his leg is out of the cast getting electric treatments to tone it up. Though he still limps at this writing it won't be long before he's back solidly on both feet again.

Lammie is recreation technician for the Alabama Forests. He swears he had nothing to do with laying that flagstone walk at Munford, if so, that is one of the few projects he hasn't had a hand in over in 'Bama.

Frank Rason's whole outfit misses you, Lammie, and is patiently awaiting your return, so are your several recreation areas in the making. But then we'll miss your visits here in the Regional Office. Well, we just can't have everything.

----- Chigger Pete

(We fear Mr. Lammers is recovering too rapidly - He may be able to make a speedy getaway from under the mistletoe.)

- - -

IN RE "THE ANCIENT ORDER OF SQUIRRELS"

Forest officers with a quizzical viewpoint regarding the value of the membership cards in "The Ancient Order of Squirrels" may be interested in the distribution method used by Florida.

Supervisor Albert sent a follow-up letter to each person registering at the towers, and enclosed a copy of the booklet "Florida National Forests". The letter said in part:

"Perhaps you wondered why when you climbed the fire lookout tower on the _____ National Forest that the towerman asked you to register and presented you with a card indi-

cating your membership into the Ancient Order of Squirrels - it seemed to be such a frivolous gesture to be sponsored by an organization such as the United States Forest Service, having the serious duty of protecting our National Forests from fire. To be sure it did no harm, and it did give you a little keepsake of your climb up onto a fire tower looking out over one of Uncle Sam's National Forests, but we in your Government's Forest Service choose to believe that we made a worthwhile acquaintance. By the very fact that you took the trouble to climb a 100 foot fire tower to see one of your National Forests from above indicates to us that you have more than just a passing interest in what is taking place on these forests.

"I am sending the attached booklet to supplement what our fire towerman told you about the National Forests and am trusting that your interest in forestry in all its phases will continue."

- - -

KOTOK SUCCEEDS TINKER

Edward I. Kotok, director of the California Forest and Range Experiment Station of the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, has been appointed an assistant chief of the Service in charge of the branch of State and Private Forestry. He succeeds E. W. Tinker who resigned a year ago to enter private business.

Mr. Kotok will direct a number of cooperative programs now under way between the Federal Forest Service and State and extension foresters to improve forest management, fire control, and forest planting in the various States.

Mr. Kotok entered the Service as a forest assistant on the Shasta National Forest in California in July 1911, a few days after he received his Master's degree in forestry from the University of Michigan. Since then he has had wide experience both in administrative work and technical forestry, as a national forest supervisor, regional staff officer, and experiment station director, including several years in charge of cooperation in fire protection with State forestry officials in California.

Mr. Kotok is the author of numerous scientific publications, many of them relating to new developments which increased the efficiency of fire detection and control systems in California forests.

- - -

"It ain't no disgrace for a man to fall down, but to lay there an' grunt, is."

---Highways of Happiness

NATIONAL MAGAZINE COOPERATES WITH FOREST SERVICE

In order to conclude all arrangements with the AMERICAN WEEKLY for their special issue of the magazine and the printing of 300,000 fire prevention posters, Mr. Godwin visited the editor of the magazine last week. At the studio of Mr. Flagg he viewed the just completed painting, which depicts a typical rural American as a fire fighter in action constructing a fire line. The whole background consists of a lively going forest fire - a most realistic scene. The model was a farm hand found at an employment office. The title "Forest Defense is National Defense" will be superimposed in white letters across the top of the poster. The painting will be reproduced in full color as a cover of the April 6, 1941 issue of the AMERICAN WEEKLY, which issue will carry an illustrated fire prevention article, now being written in the Division of I & E. The 300,000 fire prevention posters will be presented to the Forest Service for distribution.

---- Washington Office Digest

- - -

THE OLD ALABAMA NATIONAL FOREST -- AS WAS

A recent visit to the up-and-coming Black Warrior National Forest brings me recollections of its nucleus, the old Alabama National Forest.

In the fall of 1916 I was sent to Alabama to start acquisition work on the Alabama Purchase Unit. This area had been set up a year or more previously and C. E. Beaumont and C. D. Cushing, Forest Service lumbermen, had done some preliminary work on the ground that had come to naught because owners of key holdings refused to sell their lands. Another attempt was now to be made.

My party included Beaumont and Cushing, W. J. Damtoft, B. M. Lufburrow, Carl Brown, Caesar Cuthbertson, and Clarence Burrage. Incidentally, two members of the party - Lufburrow and Cuthbertson - met their future wives at Moulton, County seat of Lawrence County, which later became headquarters for the forest. We also picked up two local men: Jack McDowell (later a Forest Ranger and more recently Alabama State Fire Warden) and a boy whom I can only recall by his nick-name of "Russellville". And I mustn't forget Jed, an elderly negro who cooked for us. Jed was deathly afraid of the mountains and hardly dared venture far enough from camp to gather stove wood.

We set up camp in some deserted shacks at a sawmill set. The Henderson Lumber Company, owner of the main key holding, had sold the yellow poplar on its lands to a Tennessee company which had installed a pony band mill and had just finished logging the poplar with mules and laboriously hauling the high quality lumber to the nearest railway at Haleyville. With land lines not well established and nobody on hand to protect the interests of the Government, considerable poplar had been cut on the public lands which were intermingled with the Henderson holdings.

This part of Alabama had all been public domain. Much of it had been homesteaded fairly recently; in fact there were a number of 160 acre tracts where we had to wait until the homesteaders had finished "proving up" before we could buy the land back again.

We were mightily handicapped by a complete absence of maps. As many section corners were unknown we often had to run tie-line traverses for miles to locate the tracts we were to examine. It was an easy country to get lost in: a plateau cut by abrupt U-shaped valleys whose coves, characterized by rich soil and splendid timber, were usually bordered by lines of cliffs. Above the cliffs the land sloped up to flat sandy ridges along which meandered rudimentary wood roads.

There were many more people living in the forest then than there are today. Perhaps "existing" would be a better term, for as a rule their little farms were so sandy and barren that a quarter of a bale to the acre was a big yield of cotton; - cotton so stunted that folks picking it shuffled up and down the rows on their knees. They were of fine old stock, those people, probably as pure an Anglo-Saxon strain as one could find anywhere in America. To name the farm owners along the Cheatham Road (then as now the main north-south route through the forest, but in 1916 a winding track through deep sand instead of the present broad black-top highway) was to call the roll of English naval heroes: Drake, Nelson, Raleigh, Frobisher, etc.

Perhaps the most interesting event during our two months in camp was the discovery of Bee Branch. Burrage and I found it while running "blind" across a piece of public domain land. Unexpectedly we came out on the brink of 100-foot overhanging cliffs and saw below us a deep cove literally choked with gigantic yellow poplars. Getting down into the cove - and later scaling the cliffs on the other side - was a hair-raising adventure. The following Sunday we all took a "postman's holiday" and explored both forks of the cove. We found one poplar seven feet in diameter. The cove was so inaccessible and so hemmed in with cliffs that neither lumbermen, fires, nor winds had altered its primeval forest conditions. From 1916 to 1936, when I revisited the Black Warrior, Bee Branch remained almost forgotten. Recently it has been re-discovered and re-explored and is now in the process of being set up as a Natural Area to perpetuate what is probably the best remaining bit of virgin hardwood timber in Alabama.

When sufficient land had been acquired, the area was set up administratively with Moulton as headquarters and was handled as part of the Florida National Forest, L. L. Bishop Supervisor. Jim Ruble was transferred from the Ozark as Ranger. In those days of slow communication and travel this absentee management was so difficult that soon the Alabama was set up as a separate entity, in my charge. Due to a scarcity of funds and man-power, administrative activities were largely limited to the erection of one lookout tower and a little brushing out of roads and trails. Oddly enough, forest fires were not much of a problem.

The late W. W. Ashe often remarked to me that the timber growing possibilities of the Alabama were very high. The past twenty years have proved him to be right, for today the forest contains excellent stands of mature and young hardwoods and the former fields have grown up in young pines "thick as the hair on a dog's back". Old growth oaks and poplars are bringing high stumpage prices for lumber and staves; deer, which were extinct in 1916, have been restocked to a herd of 1000 or more and the few pure-strain wild turkey that remained have multiplied and spread; the development of good roads and recreation areas is attracting increasing numbers of vacationists; the Black Warrior has become a valued asset, not only to local communities but to all of North Alabama. The forest is an outstanding example of the benefits that accrue from Government ownership and Forest Service protection and multiple-use management.

- - - Wm. R. Barbour,
Regional Office.

- - -

RANGER DALE TAKES A PRIZE

Copping off the prize money for the best float in county fairs seems to be a habit with Ranger Dale on the Ouachita. Supervisor Nelson, in forwarding the \$10.00 check which was awarded the Ranger's float in the Logan County Fair parade at Paris, Arkansas, said: "This is the fourth consecutive year that Ranger Dale's float has taken a prize, a record of which we are all proud

- - -

Wood pulp export shipments from the United States were greater for the first eight months of 1940 than for any similar previous period. These shipments averaged 42,200 tons per month as contrasted with 26,900 tons per month in 1937, the previous high year.

--- The Paper Industry & Paper World.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Miss Claire H. Kimbrough, Junior Clerk-Stenographer in the Alabama Supervisor's Office, has resigned to accept employment with the War Department.

George Sinclair has been probationally appointed as Junior Clerk-Typist in the Cherokee Supervisor's office.

Resignation has been accepted from Mrs. Elvia L. Lamb, Telephone Operator on the Fourche District of the Ouachita. She is succeeded by Mrs. Thelma W. Ward.

Robert D. Goedert, Assistant Engineering Aid in the Chattahoochee Supervisor's Office, has tendered his resignation to accept private employment.

Probational appointment has been effected for Miss Hazel G. Anderson as Senior Stenographer in the Florida Supervisor's Office.

Duvigner Bollinger, Junior Supervising Mechanic at the Ozark Shop, has resigned to accept a position with the CCC.

Miss Edith C. Hunter has been probationally appointed as Junior Clerk-Stenographer in the Supervisor's Office, Jacksonville Naval Stores District.

Richard J. Lairscey, Minor Forest Guard on the Wakulla District of the Florida, has tendered his resignation to accept other employment

Arley L. Webb, Junior Fire Guard on the Cold Springs District of the Ouachita, has also resigned to accept other employment.

Daniel O. Todd, Assistant Clerk in the Ouachita Supervisor's Office, has been transferred to the Mississippi Supervisor's Office.

Henry M. Wright, Junior Forest Guard on the Wayah District of the Nantahala, has tendered his resignation to accept private employment.

The following intra-unit changes have been effected:

Mississippi - Richard W. Fuchs, Assistant Agricultural Aid, from the Homochitto to the Chickasawhay; Louis Carl Maisenhelder, Junior Forester, from the Homochitto to the Leaf River; Herbert P. Rice, Assistant to Technician, from the Leaf River to the Homochitto.

THE LOOKOUT

Regional Forester Kircher spoke to the class in forestry at the Alabama Polytechnic Institute at Auburn on the evening of December 9. His subject was "The Significance and Functions of National Forests".

Mr. Kramer and Mr. Van Giesen recently were in the Region for about ten days on a study of allotment base revision. It was the longest visit Bill Kramer has paid us since we lost him to the Washington Office, and he doesn't need us to tell him how glad his Region 8 friends were to see him. The genuineness of every one's pleasure at having him here must prove to Bill that he wouldn't be chosen if we were looking around for some one to lose.

Frank Rimer from the Kisatchie who is in Atlanta on vacation, stopped in the Regional Office last week to say hello to his old friends here.

Frank Heywood, Jr., General Manager of the Southern Pulpwood Conservation Association, announces that its annual meeting will take place on January 23 and 24 at the Piedmont Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia. The morning session of the 23rd will be a discussion of the conservation program of the Association. This meeting will be open to all individuals interested in forest conservation.

His friends in the Regional Office said goodbye and good luck to Regional Training Officer M. W. May last month. It's "Captain M. W. May of the Coast Artillery" now as he has reported to Fort Monroe, Virginia for three months before assignment to a station in anti-aircraft artillery. He has been succeeded here by T. G. Benedict who has been with the TVA as training officer for several months. Benedict has already pitched into the job and shows that he means business.

A recent news item in the Florida Times-Union reports that the University of Florida's School of Forestry has been accorded the status of listed school through the approval of the council of the School of American Foresters, and on the recommendation of the Society's committee on accrediting. President Tigert was quoted as being extremely pleased to have this distinctive rating conferred on the newest of the institution's colleges and schools.

Recent office visitors were:

A. E. Fivaz, Soil Conservation Service, Washington, D. C.
Henry Clepper, Executive Secretary, Society of
American Foresters, Washington, D. C.
Jay Ward, Washington Office
H. C. Hulett, Washington Office
A. C. Ringland, National Defense Commission,
Washington, D. C.

Other visitors were:

D. E. Lauderburn, Soil Conservation Service,
Spartanburg, S. C.
A. K. Thurmond, Appalachian Forest Experiment Station
Brooks Toler, State Forester, Montgomery, Ala.
E. M. Harkins, State CCC, Montgomery, Ala.
Wm. H. Fischer, Forest Supervisor, Gainesville, Ga.
Clinton G. Johnson, Gainesville, Ga.
C. A. Rowland, Chattahoochee National Forest.
Fred H. Lang, State Forester, Little Rock, Ark.
A. M. Emmerling, Assistant Forester, Little Rock, Ark.
John Byrne, Conasauga River Lumber Co. Conasauga, Tenn.
George H. Gearhart, Conasauga River Lumber Co.
Conasauga, Tenn.
L. J. Leffelman, Soil Conservation Service, Spartan-
burg, S. C.
Ernest A. Harris, Pisgah National Forest
Supervisor Bosworth, Pisgah National Forest
C. E. Smith, Champion Fibre Co., Canton, N. C.
John B. Veach, Bemis Hardwood Lumber Company,
Robbinsville, N. C.
Supervisor Melichar, Nantahala National Forest
W. R. Becton, Region 2, Pike National Forest
W. A. Shearer, Chief of Project, TVA, Norris, Tenn.
Joaquin Martinez Oramas, Associate Forester,
Puerto Rico

* * *

FOREST WISE AMERICANS

(Editor's Note: In the November issue of the DIXIE RANGER, Fire Chief Conarro described the Forestry Field Day at Perkinson Junior College in the DeSoto National Forest. The feature attraction of the occasion was the declamation contest in two sections - one for grade schools and the other for high schools. The prize winning grade school paper was reproduced last month and the one that follows is the high school prize winner. It is an indication encouraging to forestry in America that the citizens of tomorrow are interested in what happens to tomorrow's forests, and it is a privilege to have these two interesting papers appear in the pages of the DIXIE RANGER.)

"Some folks are forever losing things. Gramma loses her specs, though half the time she's hunting them they are on her head; Father loses the morning paper; brother loses his cap and in the search for it loses his temper, too. But these lost things usually turn up in the end. Indeed, a column in the newspaper is devoted to advertising the things that have been lost and found. And folks, among the items in the lost column stands this shameful one: 'Lost, through willful woodburning and sheer carelessness of hunters, campers, settlers and holiday makers, over \$20,000,000 worth of standing forest'.

"Think of it! Thousands and thousands of acres of timber, some of the trees a hundred years old, gone because somebody was careless with a camp fire, or threw away a lighted match or perhaps through some absurd, unsound, ridiculous reasons intentionally set the woods on fire. These people have robbed the United States of millions of dollars just as truly as if they had broken into a bank and robbed the safe. And besides that, they have made vast stretches of our country into a wilderness of desolation.

"Do you realize that the forest is one reason America is such a great nation today? When this country was found and the first settlers came over it was a country full of unknown dangers, but the people gained strength and courage from the mighty forest, built their homes, fought their battles and won.

"Mills sprang up on the edges of the streams. The forest was pushed farther back - in its stead came homes and farms. America was making progress. Towns flourished - prosperity reigned king. This was a country of plains and mountains, rivers and valleys, and most important of all - a land of forests. The forest helped make America independent - naturally this encouraged advancement.

"You should now see that the forest is the background of America. We have built enormous industries upon its resources. It feeds our streams - shelters and renews our wildlife. It has given moral stamina, self-taught resourcefulness and bodily vigor to every generation.

"It will continue to play an important part if fire is kept out. This deadly enemy is lurking behind every tree, in every brush pile, seeking out a covey of quail and greedily devouring the animals and wild life of our forest. This demon can destroy a life's work in ten minutes. Where fire has swept through -- nothing living can survive the charred remains of a land that was once beautiful. This destruction goes on as surely as time, but it can be stopped if we, the people of our country would only try.

"It's time we balanced accounts with our forest. It's time we became growers as well as users of wood. To do this we must be forest-wise Americans.

"Joyce Kilmer, a great poet and nature lover, once said he wished he had a whole forest for campers and gypsies to use. When he was killed in action during the World War, the state granted his wish. His beautiful poem "Trees" will always remain dear in the hearts of the American people.

'Poems are made
By fools like me
But only God
Can make a tree.'

"The last verse of that poem should remind us that we can't replace the trees which are so carelessly burned, so lets all of us become forest-wise Americans. Lets keep the forest beautiful. Lets keep it as God and nature made it."

--- Ellen Oswald
Perkinston High School.

